



IN BRIEF...

Public sector reform

Public sector reform, including institutional capacity building and establishment of rule of law, is an increasingly important area for the Swedish cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Even though considerable progress has been made in BiH, the country still suffers from significant structural weaknesses and is far from becoming a self-sustainable state. The assistance is intended to contribute to the development of a democratic and transparent administration at the service of the people at all levels of government in the country. The priority of the Swedish support will be to concentrate on the institutions that need to be strengthened if Bosnia and Herzegovina is to function as one unified country, and to facilitate activities of European Union integration within the Stabilisation and Association Process.



For a long period Sida has been funding projects to improve the efficiency of fundamental central administrative functions like statistics and national audit. Other activities have included training of Bosnian police instructors, studies of access to legal information, legal reforms, land registry and ownership of property, support to war crime tribunals and state border services. The results of the cooperation have been varied since the appropriate political preconditions and structures in many cases have been difficult to achieve.

Recent improvements give hope for a necessary strengthening of the sector at all levels. Regional guidelines for Sida support within the area of Rule of Law have been prepared to form the basis for future activities.

Ongoing projects and programs:

- Sida has recently started a large project together with USAID, covering a period of three years in supporting some 40 municipalities in becoming efficient, accountable and democratic. It is also supporting the local economic development in the selected municipalities.
- The Swedish National Audit Office supports three Supreme Audit Institutions to provide audit reports of higher quality in accordance with the national legal framework and international audit standards. (This project was supported by Sida for several years, but the funds are now channelled

directly through the Swedish National Audit Office.)

- A Land Registry Reform Project, implemented by the German agency GTZ, aims at a fully operational land information system in Bosnia and Herzegovina and at securing property rights for economic development and social peace.
- Improved police co-operation on a national and international level through enhanced capacity at the Interpol Office in Sarajevo, implemented by the Swedish National Police Board.
- Contribution to the implementation of anti-corruption plans in South-eastern Europe (PACO IMPACT). The project is implemented by the Council of Europe.
- Improvement of the financial administration capacity within selected municipalities through

provision of hardware, software and technical assistance, implemented by Itineris Development Cooperation Services, in complement to provision of technical assistance by OSCE.

- Restructuring of railway management, with contribution to a feasible railway legislation, implemented by Swedrail in cooperation with OHR.
- Transnational assistance to former soldiers to support their reintegration into society and the labour market, implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).
- Support to an integrated mine action program through UNDP.
- Secondment of staff to the OHR and to BiH institutions.

Future plans

Sida is planning to continue strengthening the support to the public sector reform, especially on the state and municipal level. The European Commission has launched a number of functional reviews in the field of Public Administration Reform and based on the results Sida will support the overall Action Plan of identified priorities. Sustainability and ownership have become key issues and local contributions will be more emphasized in future projects. Rule of law activities, implementation of the value added tax reform and the overall public administration reform are examples of state level priorities to strengthen the legal, financial and administrative capacity of municipalities will be another major area of priority, using experiences from the Integrated Area Programs and in cooperation with other relevant organizations.

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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